GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2840
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2005
SMART CARD FOR FOODGRAINS
Pathak Shri Brajesh

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue smart cards to replace the traditional ration cards for distribution of foodgrains under the Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where this scheme is being implemented at present?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b) & (c): No, Sir, However, a Pilot Project on Food Credit Cards under the Targeted Public Distribution System is being implemented in some States. The Project consists of 2 phases. The first phase being Computerization of authentic and standardized database of households and all PDS operations at the Taluka, District and State level as a back-end operation, and the second being the front-end technology which could be either Food Credit/Debit cards or Smart Ration Cards.

The scheme is presently being implemented in district Kangra of Himachal Pradesh, Ernakulam of Kerala, and Vidisha of Madhya Pradesh.